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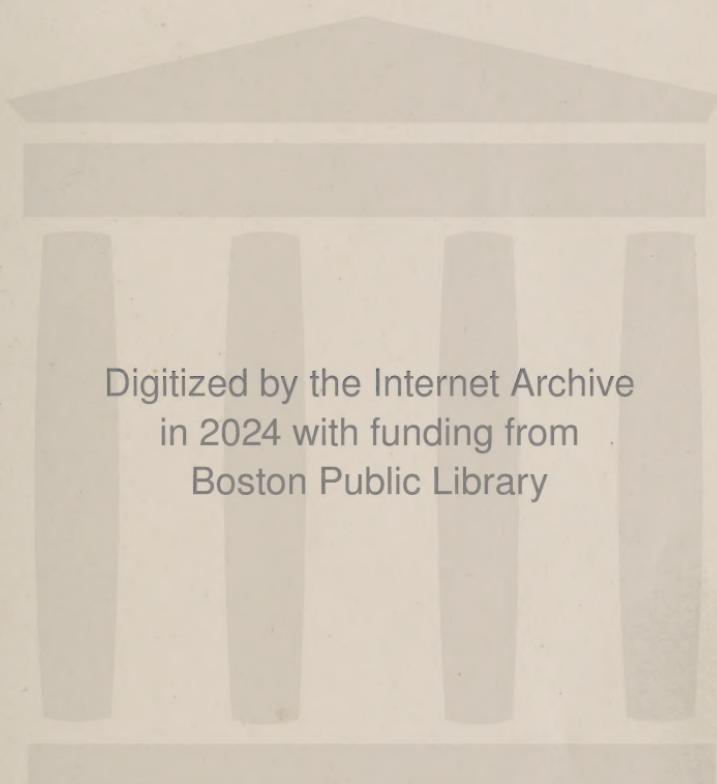


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A DAY IN THE
BOSTON.
OF THE FUTURE.

BEANS



W. B. CLARKE



340 WASHINGTON ST. BOSTON.

A DAY

IN THE

BOSTON OF THE FUTURE.

ILLUSTRATED BY THE AUTHOR.

“Is this the childe of your bedridden witt?

The Printers must be put to further toyles;

Whereas indeed

Th' hadst better give thy Pamphelett to the flame.”

ALEXANDER GILL.

SECOND EDITION.

BOSTON :

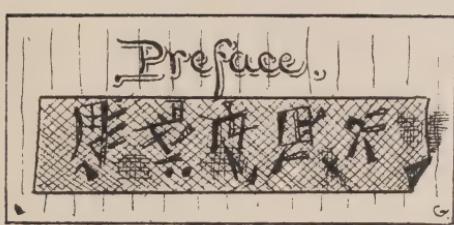
WILLIAM B. CLARKE,

340 WASHINGTON STREET.

1879.

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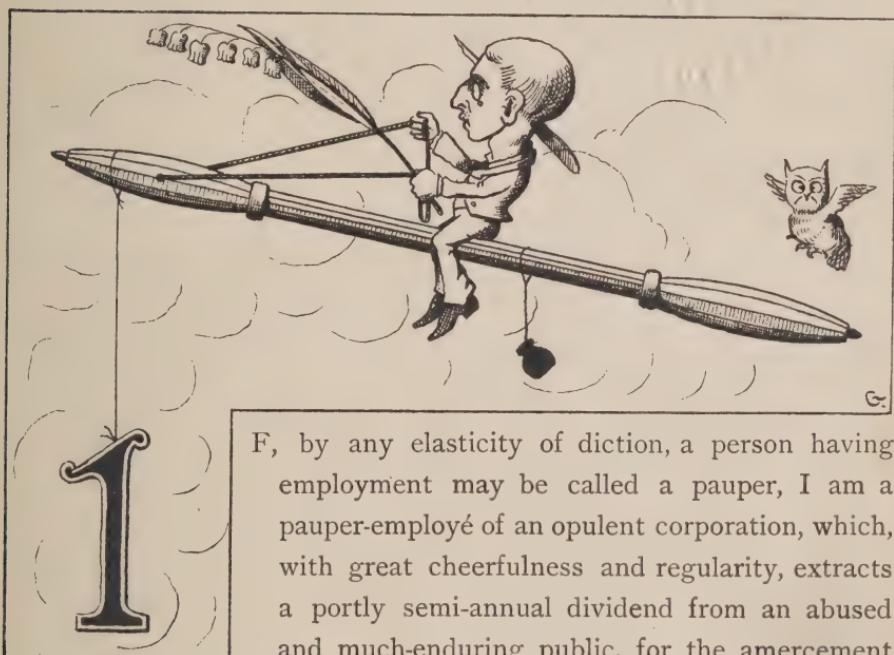
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117 Franklin Street,
Boston.



DEDICATED
TO THE
MEMORY
OF THE
“BUSKIN CLUB.”

R. I. P.

A DAY IN THE BOSTON OF THE FUTURE.



1

F, by any elasticity of diction, a person having employment may be called a pauper, I am a pauper-employé of an opulent corporation, which, with great cheerfulness and regularity, extracts a portly semi-annual dividend from an abused and much-enduring public, for the amercement

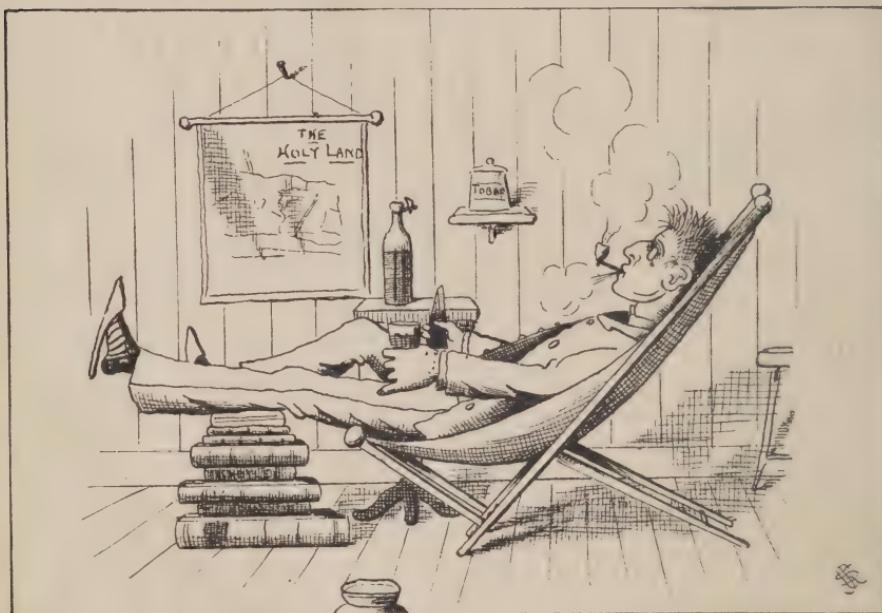
and behoof of its shareholders.

I am a moderately temperate man, else the following account might with reason be attributed to a mind diseased with a too great indulgence in that which both cheers and inebriates.

That I, who am so little worthy of the distinction, should have been chosen as the trump through which the narration—I may say prophecy—should be blown, has surprised me quite as much as it probably will the reader; and although I have an unwavering confidence in my own understanding, and powers of perception, it is with no small concern that I shall enter into the task of describing my experience with any hope of inspiring a tithe of my own belief in its details.

With this equivocal apology I will proceed.

At the end of a hard day's work in my office, in the heat of the summer, I climbed my three flights of dark stairs to my room in the shade of the ridge-pole, took off my boots, got on to my slippers (this is literal; they consisted of two soles, nothing more), and after a right Bohemian repast of crackers, cheese, and beer, lighted my pipe, and resigned myself to the doubtful luxury of a long think.



Now, it has almost passed into a proverb that sleep is a retainer and follower of a peaceful mind; so that—with my every faculty bent on the solution of problems affecting my chances of a square meal on the following day, and the liquidation of a laundry-bill contracted at as late a moment as my respectable appearance on the street would allow—it has been a mystery to me how I dropped into a quiet nap.

Before I discovered the real cause of my sleepiness, I thought that perhaps the cheese might have been the product of a gorged cow; or perchance the beer, in retaliation for the celerity of its consumption, was determined to give me no chance to enjoy its lingering bitterness.

I slept long and soundly, and was only awakened at broad daylight by a blow in the face from a sunbeam which must have come straight from the shoulder, it was so very startling.

Looking at my table-leg, I saw that it was past nine o'clock; and I sprang from my chair in a wide-awake condition.

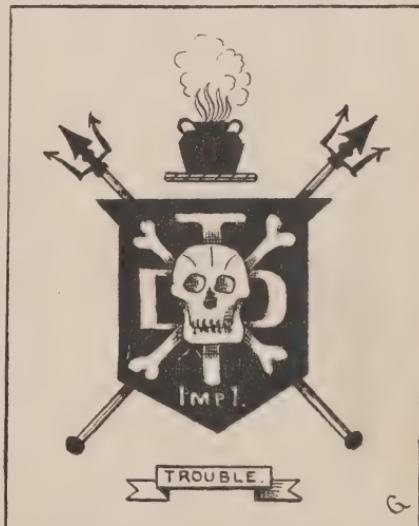
I had no clock; and, as my watch at that time graced the rack of an Israelite on Brattle Street, I had adopted the expedient of scoring one of the legs of my table with a kind of horometrical scale, by which I could tell in the morning, in fair weather, by the height of the shadow of the window-ledge, whether or no I had time for one more trip into Slumber-land.

As I had only my hat and boots to put on, I was soon ready for a run to the office; and was about leaving the room, when a note lying on the table attracted my attention.

Although I did not remember having seen it the night before, I supposed it to be nothing more than a private in the army of bills that had been laying siege to my pecuniary fortress; and was about to tear it carelessly open, when I noticed on its reverse a peculiarly diabolical crest and monogram.

Inspecting the direction more particularly, I saw that it was in a clear and elegant hand, and that the envelope bore neither stamp nor postmark.

With visions of rich relations melting into generosity, offers of lucrative situations, and invitations to swell affairs, I carefully opened it; and while my eyes telescoped out of their sockets, and my knees played together like cymbals, I read the following:—



HADES, July 25, 1878.

MY DEAR SIR,—Having been directed by my most kind and indulgent master, his Universal Majesty the Devil, to call on you, and deliver his congratulations

on the magnificent triumph achieved in his cause through your exertions last week, it gives me pleasure to inform you, that, as a temporary reward for your bravery and dare-to-do-wrong spirit shown on that occasion, it pleases his Majesty to accord to you the privilege of one day's inspection of this city as it will appear in two hundred years from this date.

On your awakening from the sleep into which I, in the guise of a piece of cheese, have thrown you, you will find this note; and, on your recovery from a swoon into which you will sink after its perusal, you will find that you have opened your eyes in Boston in the year, as you measure them, 2078.

Keep your wits about you, and your senses alert.

Treasure in your memory any thing of importance that you may see, as a brief

period of retrospection will be allowed you on your return, and you will have a chance to note for the benefit of your fellow-citizens of to-day the contrast between the present period and the future.

At the end of this time, I am glad to be able to say, you will receive the remainder of your reward at the hands of his Majesty directly.

I have the honor, my dear sir, in closing, to congratulate

you on your prospects, and, with the hope that I shall clasp hands with you here at no distant day, to subscribe myself

Yours sin—cerely,

FIRST IMP IN WAITING.

To JAMES CARSHACKLE, Esq.,

Boston and Vancouver-Island Railroad.

With only time to reflect that his Majesty had made a grave mistake, and that evidently I was not the man he was after, as I had a middle initial, did not drudge on the Boston and Vancouver-Island Railroad, and had not done any thing the past week to merit his favor, I swooned in obedience to the wishes of my correspondent.

I am sure I am utterly in the dark as to where I passed the time in the interval of the next two hundred years.

On my return to consciousness I found myself in the centre of an



immense field, the hard smooth turf of which stretched for a mile or more from a city on the one hand to an ocean on the other, and which was bounded by a high board fence on every side, excepting that toward the sea.

Regaining my senses more fully, I found that I was arrayed in habiliments the like of which I had frequently seen, but had, for good reasons, never before donned.

They comprised a shirt of gray flannel, a pair of knickerbocker breeches of the same material, red stockings of some stout fabric, heavy canvas shoes, and a flannel cap fitted with a visor entirely out of proportion to its size, so that my head resembled a country store with a great awning over its whole front.

On the breast of my shirt was a device which at first I mistook for a skull and cross-bones, but which, on examining, I recognized to be two crossed bats and a regulation ball, cut from blue cloth, and stitched on with yellow silk.

I had hardly time to note the sporting characteristics of my costume before I saw approaching me from the city a multitude of people, who, when they came within speaking-distance, I saw were, to a man, attired in the same fashion.

This circumstance, I remember, afforded me much consolation; for it occurred to me that the style of dress must have changed very materially in two hundred years; and I inwardly thanked my patron,



who had sent me on so far ahead, for his consideration and far-sightedness in presenting me to this people in clothes like their own.

My curiosity was not so much aroused as to the reason why so large a body of men should evince such an extraordinary interest in base-ball as they did; for, two hundred years back, I had seen the same thing done time and again.

But here every man was evidently a player, and I could not account for the absence of spectators of the game.

I was about to ask one of the assemblage for an explanation, when I felt a slight touch at my elbow; and, on turning, I was accosted by a tall, severe-looking fellow in the same dress as the rest, who, after

telling me that he was to be my guardian and guide during my stay in the future, introduced himself as a former resident of Providence, R.I., who, after his death in 1984, was, in consideration of his long and faithful service in his Majesty's employ, appointed invisible custodian of the city for the term of one hundred years.

"My master," said he, "is very well satisfied that it is only a question now of a few centuries when Boston will be entirely under his control; and has therefore diverted his individual attention to devote it to Philadelphia, the 'City of Brotherly Love,' leaving me here to see that there shall be no retrograde movement toward any thing good.

"My term of service is nearly at an end, and I anticipate a delightful seclusion in a few years.

"I am to show you about the city, and explain some of its changes from the time when you left it; and am directed to answer all your questions with a strict regard for the truth.



"There is only one thing I want to caution you about.

"Since my death I have been cultivating a caudal appendage, which at present has reached the length of four feet.

"As I was directed to appear to you in citizen's dress, I find some difficulty in disposing of it in the folds of these knickerbockers so that it shall be comfortable ; and it is doubled and twisted in such a way, that the slightest touch gives me infinite pain.

"Please be careful and not rub up against me ; and, as you value my guidance, don't touch my left knee.

"I keep the end of it under that knee ; and, like a rosebud, it is deusedly tender."

"But," I inquired, "how do you manage to walk the streets without getting innumerable rubs and blows ?"

"Ah ! you forget," he answered, "that I am invisible to the eyes of all men save yourself : and glad I am of this ; for I should have had to submit to the loss of the tail before accepting the consulate here. And, my friend, to grow a new one would involve years of patience and care, as I know from my recollection of such a case.

"It has taken me nearly ninety years to grow these four feet."

And with that he stroked his hand down the side of his leg much in the manner of an Arab sheik stroking his beard.

"You speak of the citizen's dress," said I : "will you tell me what it is like in this century ?"

"Why, my dear fellow, you see it all around you.

"In the year 1895, shortly after the general application of compressed electricity as a motor, base-ball had become so popular, and indulgence in the game so universal, that it visibly improved the physical condition of the citizens as a whole.

"The city physician, who was just coming into the power and in-



fluence which the position represents at the present day, proposed that it should be decreed by law that every male citizen between the ages of twenty-one and sixty should devote at least one day in the week to the game; and so high was the popular enthusiasm, the question having been put to vote, that that which was at first only a suggestion became a city ordinance.

“A few years more, and the base-ball uniform was adopted as the municipal dress by common consent; and another ordinance, to the effect that all others should be prohibited, clinched the matter, and it has always so remained.

“This would seem to simplify in a marked degree the question of extravagance in dress; but I am glad, in the interest of his Majesty my master, to say, that, while the male population are restricted as I have mentioned, the females have unlimited swing, and are at perfect liberty to choose their own decoration, either of luxury or necessity.

“The result of this has been, that, while prices have advanced, the demand for and consumption of female apparel is something of great magnitude.

“Two games of lawn-tennis on the ball-ground are ordered by the city in each year for

the women; and then, and then only, will you find any similarity in their outward appearance.”



"But," said I, "I should think it would be impossible to find room for so many players at the same time."

"Base-ball used to require quite a large space for its successful prosecution, and to add to it lawn-tennis must demand a great tract of country to accommodate the masses; the population of the city having, of course, doubled, perhaps quadrupled, in two hundred years."

"That difficulty has been overcome," said my friend, "by dividing the city into six sporting-precincts, one of which follows another on different days in the week."

"Then, again, the game is played now with one hundred and fifty men on each side, and with twenty bases, so that it takes a man the greater part of an hour to make a run; the diamond, or rather labyrinth, being four miles around."

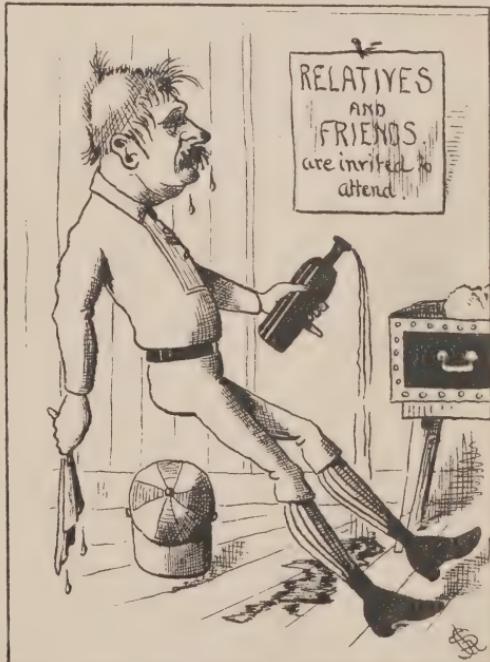
"The field in which we now stand is the ball-ground, and was completed in the year 2000.

"You are probably mystified as to its location.

"Dorchester Bay was filled in; the labor being done by convicts from the city prisons, of which there are now fifty-eight, or one in each ward.

"A man to-day, you know, is sentenced to jail for not less than a year, for even a suspicion of liquor in his breath, unless he can present his pastor's certificate stating that the horn was taken to assuage grief.

"The old game of drinking for the health's sake cannot now be practised, as a man in this era is never sick until he is ready to die.



“As soon as he is taken ill, a physician is called, not to cure him, but to make his last moments as comfortable as possible; as one might say, ‘to speed the parting guest.’

“The effect of this has been to greatly reduce the number of medical men, as not one man in ten cares to have the solemnity of his farewell broken in upon.

“This absence of any thing but a final sickness is attributed to base-ball, lawn-tennis, and the process in vogue of exploding the dead.”

“Exploding the ——!” I exclaimed.

“You look shocked; but I am not sure but that it is better than the ancient burial, or even the later cremation revival.

“Some one discovered a property long hidden in the composition of an ordinary German sausage, which, combined with a grain of dynamite, formed an explosive compound of tremendous—in fact, of totally destructive—power.

“It is to dynamite as a zephyr is to a cyclone.”

“But the idea,” said I, “of exploding a dead body, is too horrible for contemplation.”

“Nevertheless, it is done every day, and, I assure you, is far from revolting, and, what is a greater consideration, is of much benefit to the public health.

“Then, again, the cost is a mere trifle.

“On the decease of a person, and after the services held in accordance with the religious belief of his family, a funeral procession, instead of following the corpse to the grave, escorts it to a steamer that plies between the city and an artificial island constructed in the ocean outside of Minot’s-Ledge Reservoir.”

“I beg your pardon,—reservoir for what?” I asked, not knowing but what, by some hellish method, this wonderful people had moved Chestnut Hill down into the lower bay.

“Why, for electricity,” he explained, — “to supply a chain of lights extending from Cape Cod to Cape Ann.

“They are connected by cable, and the fluid is collected at Minot’s-shore station, and, with improved apparatus, sent around as needed.”

Willing to forego the pleasure of a detailed account of the process by which some twenty lights could be lighted at one time and by one man, I requested my instructor to keep me no longer in suspense, but to inform me what became of the fragments of mortality after they reached the island.

"Your question is pertinent," he answered blandly. "On its arrival, the body is placed on a solid block of chilled iron, a cube of some six feet. A piece of the dyna-sausage is inserted into the cavity of the chest, and is exploded by a clock-work arrangement, so simple, that, as I said before, its expense is almost nothing.

"Since an accident that happened a short time ago, by which a whole family was exterminated by a premature explosion, through the carelessness of an apprentice, who set an exploder to go off at ten A.M. instead of eleven, as ordered, the Mayor has appointed a regular official, whose duty it is to take the sole charge of the mechanism,— the City Exploder.

"The works are run only during the prevalence of a west wind; and not a scrap of anatomy has ever been found, notwithstanding that hundreds of corpses are treated in this way every year.

"There is a tradition that the captain of a New-Bedford whaler was killed by an eye that blew over Cape Cod during some experiments in the infancy of the project; but as nearly all the crew were



armed with slung-shots, and as the eye was never found, the question of the manner of the mariner's taking off was left open by the coroner.

"The coroners of that period were not the most painstaking men in the world, and the verdict that a man came to his death from causes beyond his control was deemed amply sufficient to secure a fee."

During this conversation we had been standing in the centre of



the field; and, afraid of an unpleasant encounter with one of the numerous balls that were flying about in all directions, I evinced a desire to seek a place of safety.

"We will go into the city and take a look at some of its old landmarks," said my guide.

"If you care to ride, there are still some good saddle-horses in town; though the pneumatic tube business has made it possible to dispense

with them, except among a few old-fashioned personages.

"The city is undermined by passages, through which every thing movable is blown by a series of fans situated in the different wards. For instance, you can step into a compartment opening into your cellar, and in a few moments are delivered at your office, with no exertion more than that involved in turning a key that notifies the operator at the fan.

"Unless you are an expert in pneumatic mechanism, I will not attempt to explain the details of the system; only adding, that a bundle of chips will be delivered as carefully and conscientiously at its destination as will the highest dignitary of the city.

"The expense is divided among the citizens in proportion to the amount of service, and is assessed with the beer, water, and electricity tax, in the form of a grand total.

"I forgot to tell you that the beer — which, by the way, is not in-

toxicating if not abused—is piped about the city from a brewery and reservoir in one of the suburbs; and piping and faucets in each house render it as easy of access as water,—sometimes easier.

“But come: let’s get into the city.”

Without losing time we started, and, after a brisk walk (the last detail of the proposed balloon cabs not being quite perfected), soon reached an entrance from the city proper to the ball-ground.

Just as we were turning into the avenue, I nearly fell over what I at first mistook for a piece of dilapidated basket, but which proved to be an enormous peanut-shell, which would have covered an ordinary foot like a moccasin.

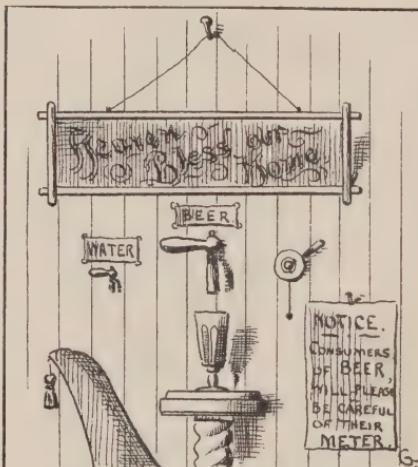
Noticing my look of surprise, my friend chased it away by telling me that Boston had developed such a taste for the aforesaid delicacy as to devote a large tract of country in the South to its growth, and had, by crossing and experimenting, succeeded in bringing the vine to its present state of high cultivation, maturing its fruit in the open air instead of underground, and giving it an added charm of a grapy flavor; in a word, nuts and raisins in one.

“The boys ought not to leave the shells round the streets, though,” said he; “for it is not pleasant to keep up such a dodging as is necessary to protect one from a blow from a specimen.”

“What, in the name of your master, is that?” I burst forth, descrying something that in the distance looked like a piece of stove-funnel endowed with powers of locomotion.

“Our master, if you please, my friend. You will be kind enough to remember that we are sailing in the same employ and under the same flag.

“To reply to your question. That is a member of ‘the most immaculate police-force in the world.’”



As the object came nearer, I saw that what I mistook for a piece of funnel was a stock of prodigious size.

In fact, it enveloped the wearer in a coat of sheet iron from shoulders — yes, ears — to ankles.

There were apertures in the sides, through which the arms protruded ; and the arrangement was padlocked at its seam behind.

“The stock is locked by one of the Police Commissioners at the beginning of an officer’s tour of duty, and unlocked when he comes off his beat.

“This insures a stern attention to business ; as there are spikes on the inside of the stock, making it painful for him to lean against anything, and absolutely impossible for him to sit down.

“Personally, I prefer a tail.

“The principal objection to the appliance is, that, when an officer gets knocked over in a *mélée*, he has to rely on the assistance of some good-natured bystander to place him on his feet again, as he can progress only by rolling.

“Inspector Clubbit of the one hundred and thirty-second precinct nearly starved to death a week ago, from having been tripped down stairs, and left on his head in an unoccupied cellar, while trying to arrest a man for drinking.

“The felon escaped.”

Hardly convinced that this innovation was an improvement on the old collar, I followed my conductor into the city.

After securing two good horses, — which, by the way, were bor-



rowed of an antiquary who had held on to some of the old customs with great tenacity, — we started on our tour of observation.

I noticed with pleasure that most of the streets and avenues had preserved their original names; so that I was enabled to trace my way with comparative ease during my ride.

This was fortunate, as I recognized but few of the buildings and points of interest that had been familiar to me.

In fact, many of the streets themselves had been entirely obliterated; while others were straightened and improved till they bore no resemblance to any that I had ever seen.

For instance, there was one change in Tremont Street, opposite the Common, which seemed to be nothing more than an obstruction.

At a point nearly opposite the head of West Street there was a sharp upward grade for perhaps one hundred feet, reaching an elevation of at least ten feet above its base, and continuing along until it as sharply declined at School Street, and then resumed its former level.

The slopes of this embankment were turfed from top to curbing, making a grassy wall, between which and the store-fronts the side-walk ran like a ditch.

My attendant, who, from the inconvenience connected with his vertebral extension, I could see, was hardly enjoying his seat in the saddle, explained the presence of this mound to my satisfaction.

“You will remember,” said he, “that in your day there was some rivalry between two great horse-railroad corporations with regard to their respective rights of way in some of the thoroughfares.



" This culminated a long time ago in a blockade here on Tremont Street, caused by two cars running in opposite directions meeting at this point.

" Neither driver would consent to leave the rails or to go back ; and in the course of the day a long line of cars stood in the street, and travel was brought entirely to a standstill.

" One corporation immediately sued the other.

" The case dragged along from court to court, and, at the end of a year, was no nearer a settlement than at first.

" At last the city authorities, who, from a long and varied experience with dissensions of this kind, had become well versed in laws governing the railroads, ordered the directors to come to an understanding within a given number of days, threatening them with the assurance, that, unless the barricade was removed, they would make the matter an affair of their own, and would terminate the controversy in a manner suggested by the city engineer and overtake, — a proceeding that would arouse public opinion to such a pitch of antagonism as would preclude the possibility of conducting any operations on the part of the railroad in the future.

" This menace had the effect of increasing the stubbornness of the belligerents, who defied the authorities, and sent back a message intimating that the meddling of a third party would not be tolerated, and that they proposed to fight their own battles.

" Their doom was sealed by this reply.

" Without further warning, a large force of city employés was put on to the street ; and in a short time the

cars were covered with gravel, the covering was paved and sodded,



and only a discreet and abrupt removal from town saved the directors from the event of sharing an old-fashioned grave with their property.

"Shortly after this, a mob, headed by some of the most influential citizens, tore up every track in the city, and set fire to the remaining cars, which were consumed.

"A reward was offered for the invention of something to take their place ; and what at first promised to be a great calamity proved a blessing through the improvement and application of the pneumatic tube and the now nearly perfected scheme of aerial transit.

"This embankment has been allowed to remain as a monument to the members of the Board of Aldermen for that year, and is looked upon as one of the heirlooms of the city.

"To be sure, the sidewalk is in a rather awkward place ; but as pedestrians can use the street without danger from carriages (of which there are very few in town), and as there are flights of steps at intervals of a few rods, this inconvenience is winked at."

Reaching the corner of School Street, I saw on the spot where the old Tremont House used to stand a beautiful monument enclosed in a space extending back for some distance from the street.

It was of granite of exceedingly fine quality, elaborately carved, and embraced in its design four tablets of bronze, apparently representing scenes in the life and progress of the person to whose memory it was erected.

On going closer to the railing, I was astonished to see that the tablet facing the street portrayed with startling distinctness a man hanging from a gibbet in the pres-



ence of several gentlemen of austere and forbidding appearance, one of whom was engaged in the laudable process of pulling the suspended by the legs to accelerate his dissolution.

"There," said my friend, "stands the great anti-hostelry monument, erected in 1976 to the memory of the man who first shot a hotel-clerk.

"He was hung the year following the act, and, after lying in the potter's-field until the hotel-clerk massacre in '75, was resurrected, and buried here directly in the theatre of his great achievement.

"This monument records in imperishable stone his many virtues, culminating in the grand exploit of his career."

"But how do the hotels keep their accounts ?



"They certainly must have something or somebody to receive the guests, and attend to the domestic economy of the establishments," said I.

"It is all done by machinery now," replied he, "and the system works admirably.

"From the time you enter a hotel, till you leave, you see nobody but the guests, and are relieved from the unmeaning attentions of every one,—from the barber who used to talk all the hair off one side of your face while he was shaving the other, to the clerk himself, who would assure you, with an appearance of great condescension, that he

was doing you the greatest favor in the world when he put you in a room from the windows of which you could 'pluck a star from the sky.'

"The hotels have in the course of time changed their locations, so as to meet more fully the convenience of their respective guests.

"Thus the Parker House, which will probably be a Boston institution as long as Boston exists, has been re-established in the Cambridge district of the city.

"It has only its name and reputation to identify itself, having passed into the hands of the trustees of Harvard University, who wisely concluded, that, if their wards and future philosophers must have a course of hotel relaxation, it was hard on them to have to take the trip to School Street in pursuit of the same.



"The success of this scheme seemed assured at first. Not a student was seen in the old part of the city for several months, until the growing fondness for another attraction down town made it imperative, that, in order to carry out their idea, a theatre should also be secured.

"After much consideration, and several resignations among the faculty, an immense opera-house was built; and a company of London burlesque performers, females predominating, was engaged, and has since been maintained.

"The degree of S. L. D. D. was conferred upon the manager, in consideration of his tact and skill in preparing racy amusement and Semi-Lawful Diversions Devised by him ; and he is constantly occupied in presenting some new form of entertainment that shall act as an escape-valve for the superfluous spirits of the students."

We had continued our ride, and by this time were on Beacon Street, opposite the Public Garden, or rather what was once the Public Garden ; for now nearly all the space formerly occupied by that resort was enclosed, and roofed over with glass and iron.

Dismounting, we went in at a side-door, paying a nominal admission-fee ; and I found myself in an immense gallery of statuary.

The bronze and marble figures extended in long files on either side of the avenues, reminding me of soldiers in battle-array ; while the softened and tinted light fell around them, enshrouding one and all in a mist of glory. (Not an observation of my escort.)

I was not pleased with the arrangement of the pieces, however, as there was too much contrast manifested in their relative positions.

For instance, the bust of an eminent jurist — a hard, stern-looking man, more famous for his legal acumen and powers of oratory than for his personal attractions — was backed up so closely against a beautiful copy of the Greek slave, that the latter actually looked frightened ; and an imploring look in the

stony eyes seemed to infer that the offer of a piece of raiment to throw over her form would be gratefully accepted.



On expressing my surprise at the want of feeling displayed by the persons having this place in charge, I was informed that most of the statues of celebrities were in the garden before its devotion to the purposes of an art museum.

“So rapidly did they accumulate,” said my guide, “that, on the completion of the great public park in 1905, it was proposed by the Society of Decorative Art that the garden should become a repository for examples of the sculptor’s skill, and that, to save expense, the counterfeit presentments of the great exploded should be allowed to stand on their original sites and pedestals.

“Of course, if it was to be begun anew, nothing but a vitiated taste would ever allow that Cupid and Psyche yonder to conduct their amours under the belly of George Washington’s Bucephalus, or this Romulus and Remus to draw their wolfish sustenance almost under the mantle of that great and noble (my master forgive me) Massachusetts statesman; but the cost of moving these tons of metal and stone would be more than the improvement would amount to.

“There in the farther corner, in that elegant shrine, is preserved the only piece of undecorated pottery produced in the year 1878.

“Its value is fabulous.”

Walking about, until, tired of the profusion of art treasures displayed in this crowded collection, I expressed a desire to retire, we again mounted our horses, and continued on our way.

Riding slowly through street after street, and by blocks of palatial residences constructed on filled land, where in my time I had sailed and skated, we reached the entrance to a magnificent park, whose broad smooth avenues wound hither and thither among trees and shrubbery, across finely-built bridges of stone and iron, and where fountains and lakes, rustic arbors, aviaries, and zoölogical gardens, vied with each other in making the place delightful.



The malls were crowded with people,— the men in the inevitable flannel and cap; the women arrayed in garments no two of which



were alike in make or texture, and which displayed as many colors as did Joseph's coat.

Tables were placed under the trees ; and whole families were there, enjoying themselves in various ways.

An army of peddlers, hucksters, and the like, were vigorously crying their wares; while the children, as they always did and always will do, romped, played, fell into the fountain-basins, were dried, spanked, and put on foot again, only to repeat the operation twenty times.

The universal peanut was there; and miniature yachts made from its shells skimmed across the water, and, in consideration of their worthlessness, were allowed to wreck

themselves on the rock-bound coast of the curbing.

A policeman occasionally shuffled by, his face appearing above his armor like the stopper of a decanter ; and it was amusing to see him leer at one of the pretty nurses, who, however much inclined, could have by no possibility approached him near enough to receive a greeting, without attracting the attention of her young charges.

While we were enjoying the scene before us, a burst of music came rolling up the avenue, and a battalion of infantry marched by.

A very showy uniform did not atone for the individual appearance of the men ; for, while more than one-half of them were at the outside bounds of corpulency, the rest had a comfortable and satisfied air, as though relying on the promise of a speedy arrival at that goal.

"There, you see, is an example of what luxury and ease will do for a man, if persisted in," said my companion.

"That troop forms the Governor's body-guard; and the men are quartered at the gubernatorial palace, in the heart of the city, at the expense of the State.

"They are the lineal descendants of the members of the First Body-Guard in the Commonwealth, — an organization that you are, perhaps, familiar with, — and on arriving at a suitable age are appropriately salaried, taken charge of by officials appointed by the Governor, educated in the science of war, and brought up to such a degree of gentlemanly accomplishment as will enable them to perpetuate the honor and capabilities (I had almost said capacity) of their ancestors.

"An unquenchable predilection for rare and sometimes uncouth articles of food and drink has brought them to their present rotund, if not robust, physical condition; but the evil is so deeply seated as to defy improvement, and its effects are even considered a badge of distinction by some of the corps.

"Why, that old fellow whose ponderous form is being dragged about in a barouche by a squad of men, at the tail of the procession, would no more exchange places with the Colonel than he would with you.

"He holds the Pearton Epicurean Medal, and is the only man in the corps who can eat six quails at a meal on thirty consecutive days."

Musing on the degeneracy of the times, and especially of the armed forces of the State, we kept on through the park, and, by a circuitous route through the suburbs, reached the city again.



The Common was one of the few places that had changed but little.

The fence all around it had been moved back some hundred feet, so as to materially lessen its space; but I recognized many an old landmark, and the Frog Pond winked its ripples in a way suggestive of old-time fellowship.

The gilded dome of the State House, that cover of a tempestuous teapot, under the shadow of which so little in much had been accomplished, had given place to one nearly three times as large, surmounted with the emblem of the State,—an enormous bean carved from wood, and transfixated with a porcine sparerib of the same material.

Thus had the controlling appetite of the city affected the Commonwealth.

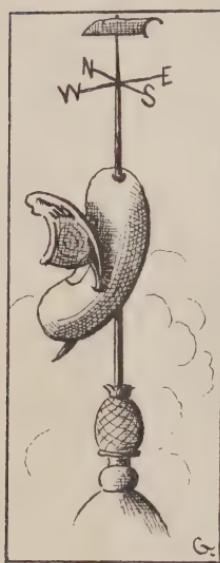
On the space formerly occupied by one of the largest railroad corporations there had been built a schoolhouse, or rather a succession of houses, capable of containing all the scholars of the lower grade in the city.

Tubes leading to every quarter of the metropolis opened from the basement; so that, in addition to the chance of being blown up by his instructor at night, the pupil was blown back by his parents in the morning.

My guardian informed me, in answer to a question, that the system of education was entirely different from that of my day.

“A child, when old enough to talk, is at once taken in hand by the public instructors, and, under home supervision, is put on a diet of brain-producing food, care being taken that he have plenty of air and exercise.

“His studies are selected from those for which his parents have shown a preference; and, instead of being crammed and strangulated with learning at the age of fifteen, his mind is in a receptive and pliable condition, so that it is ready for a more severe cultivation at one of the colleges.



"Very few prodigies are turned out by this method ; but everybody is healthy, and the prevalence of laziness is one of the things of the past.

"A man's brain to-day has such a command over his corporeal system, and is so active, that it is impossible for him to be a sluggard."

"Why could I not have existed in this Elysian era ?" thought I, my memory reverting to the delicious drowsy moments passed in my bed in the morning, and brought to a rude tumble by the height of the shadow of my window-ledge.

I followed on after my Avernian escort ; and, leaving our horses, we continued our explorations.

We visited newspaper-offices, where enormous scissors actuated by electricity were affording rest to weary brain and muscle, and where huge presses were delivering from their cylinders dailies of such magnitude as to require special and enlarged tubes for their circulation.

We entered club-houses where that seductive old game of poker had assumed gigantic proportions, and where apparently phlegmatic, but in reality wily old men, were ensconced behind colossal piles of chips, endeavoring to entice some wavering freshman in the game into trying his fortune.

Churches with three hundred feet of spire and three-hundred-dollar pastors, and which presented a terrible contrast between pulpit and organ, were looked into ; and in this stage of the walk I felt my first real heart-weariness.

We climbed stairs, ascended elevators, dived into basements, shot through dark passages encased in steel, and smelling of oil ; and, after



one of the longer trips of this kind, we emerged at a point which commanded a view of the harbor.

A broad avenue had been laid out, curving from Savin Hill, and entirely encompassing the water-front of the city.

From it the wharves extended in regular order, and the whole was of solid masonry.

From what I could see of old Commercial Street and Atlantic Avenue, I should say that the new esplanade was built at least five hundred feet outside of their former boundary; and the arrangement included South and East Boston and a part of Chelsea in its encircling arm.

“This improvement was brought about through the exertions of one of the mayors of the city,” said my friend, “who strongly advocated the sale by the State of the Hoosac Tunnel, and the application of the money thus obtained to the advancement of the project.

“The tunnel was sold to private parties for an ice-house and general refrigeratory purposes, in connection with abattoirs; and in the year 1920 this great work was begun.

“The wharf and electrical railroad facilities have been the means of securing for Boston a foreign trade second to that of no city in America; and, although the interior towns have kept up an incessant grumbling, the wisdom of the exchange is assured.

“It cost something more than the price obtained for the tunnel; but bonds were issued, and are at a premium, notwithstanding that there is no time set for their redemption.”

It was now growing dark, and I was getting tired of such a confusion of new sights and ideas.

I suggested to my indefatigable courier, that, if there was a place of amusement located in that part of the city, we should secure seats, and witness the performance.

“There is no summer theatre nearer than the Cosmopolitan, on Massachusetts Avenue; but we can take a compartment at the next corner, and be left under its door-step,” he replied.

“Come this way.”

And, after a few minutes of lubricated darkness, we climbed a flight of steps into the vestibule of the Temple of the Muses.

It was a large building, and embraced in its interior four stages and auditoriums, in which a play or an opera was presented simultaneously, each in a different language, and by four distinct companies.

This innovation was introduced for the benefit of the foreign population, and was under government control.

The play on this evening was historical in its character, and was advertised in glaring letters to be accurate in its details of costume, scenery, and stage-setting.

It was founded on incidents in the war of the Rebellion in 1862: and aside from the fact that Gen. Lee was made to punish Gen. Grant severely, Grant being represented as being on the Confederate side, it was historically correct; at least, the events were.

A slight mistake of the costumer in making the belligerents fight in cocked hats, knee-breeches, and with flint-lock muskets, and of the scenic artist in including a view of the city of Cabul, rather detracted from its interest in my eyes; but, as the applause was long and loud, the acting must have been good.

At another time I might have seen all these Hamlets.



As we were going out with the crowd after the performance, a clock in the vicinity struck twelve; and remembering that I had eaten nothing during the day, and beginning to feel the pangs of hunger, I asked my guide if there was a place at hand where we could secure a good supper.

“ Hush ! ” he exclaimed.

“ Beware how you speak of such things above a whisper.

“ Why, man, if an assistant city physician, or a policeman, should hear you give utterance to such a request, you would be incarcerated in the Fast Pound in ten minutes.

“ There is a most stringent law prohibiting any well man, woman, or child, from eating after eight P.M.

“ More misery has been caused by after-sundown eating than by matrimonial infelicity, and I should have warned you of the danger of such a sentiment.”

“ But,” said I, feeling, now that I was thwarted, that I must eat or faint, “ I only want a ham-sandwich, or even a cracker ; and one or the other I will have.”

Before these words were well out of my mouth I was seized from behind, and gagged ; my hands and feet were tied ; and I was rolled into a rubber sack, the mouth of which was tied up and sealed.

I felt myself sliding down a declivity ; then, with a sudden bang and crash, some heavy body rolled me out like a sheet of paper, and I was slapped like a playbill against a wall, to which I stuck with the adhesive qualities of my own blood.

Bored and exhausted reader,—



his right vest-pocket, — I concluded that the beer and cheese had

I began this tale with an apology ; and, if you will accept them both, I will end it with another.

I beg your pardon for my neglect in not reaching Hades.

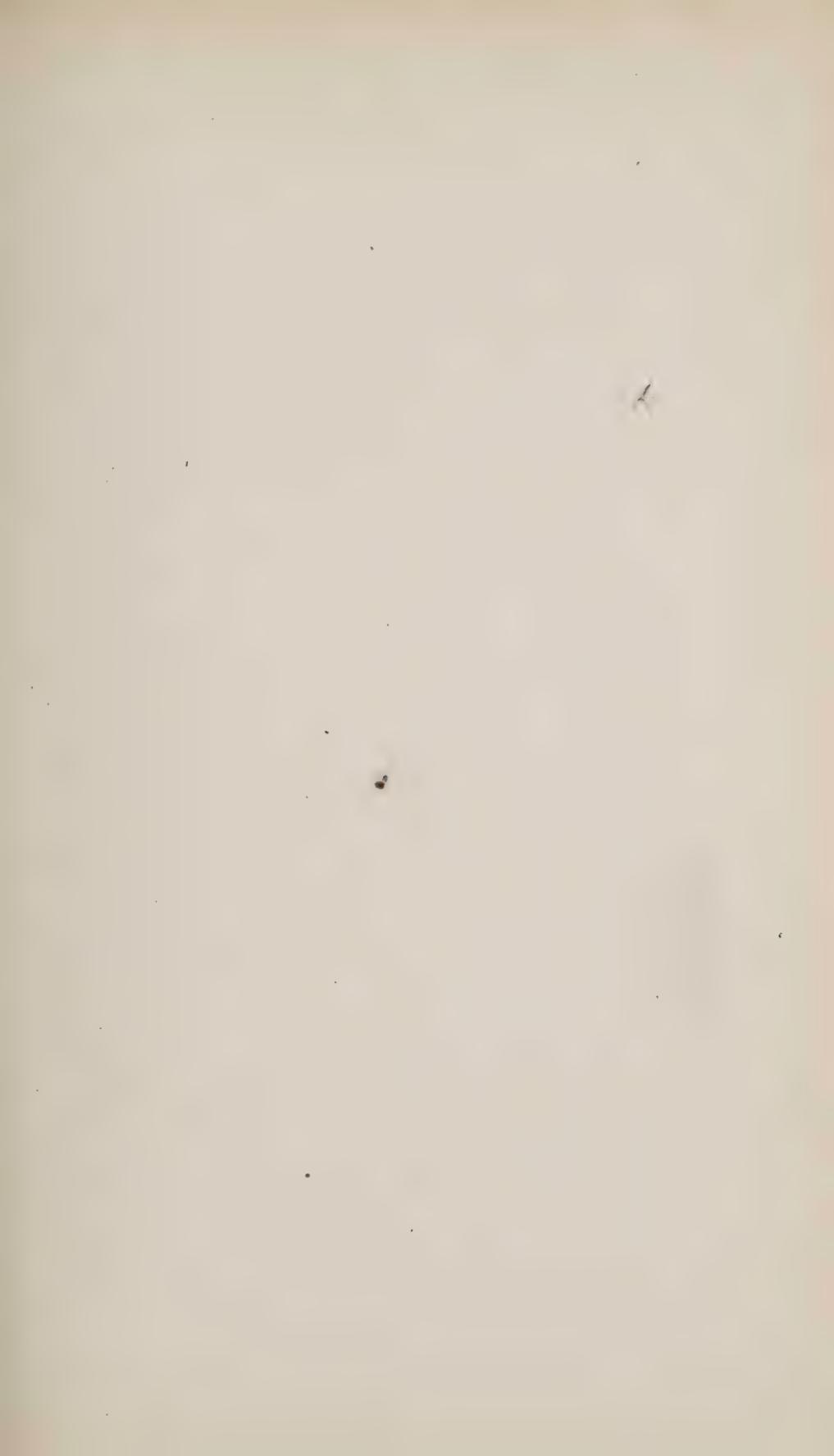
When I awoke, I found myself in my own easy-chair ; and from the disorder of my hair, and the position I had assumed,—that of an acrobat trying to place his left foot in

taken a more cowardly revenge than I had deemed them capable of, and, not contented with sending me to sleep, had, in the most interesting part of my somnolent experience, suddenly and brutally awakened me.

Can I be held responsible for any lack of veracity in this record, when, as I intimated in the beginning, I myself have the most thorough belief and conviction, that, while I was asleep, something "RAISED THE DEVIL WITH ME"?











B.P.L. Bindery.
MAR 17 1879

[July, 1879]

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